



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

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CONTACT: Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer
(608) 266-3559 / joseph.donovan@dpi.state.wi.us

WKCE scores remain steady, participation increases

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster reported that overall scores on statewide assessments held steady with increased participation across all student groups and a slight closing of the achievement gap, especially at fourth grade.

Approximately 198,000 students in grades four, eight, and 10 took Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) in November 2003 in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. This was an increase in the number of students tested and the percentage of students included in testing from previous years.

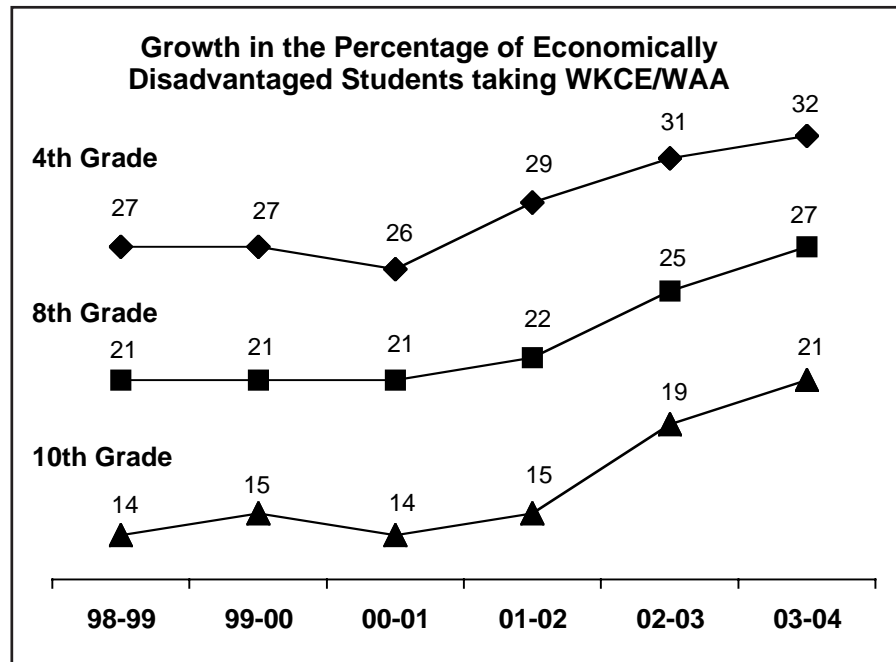
In addition to 2003-04 being the second year of WKCE fall testing, this was the second year for administration of the Wisconsin Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities and Limited-English Proficient students, and the first time students taking alternate assessments were included in proficiency totals. Participation for all groups on the Wisconsin Student Assessment System tests increased to between 89 percent and 100 percent, up from the previous year's rates of 83 percent to 100 percent. Average participation for all students statewide was 100 percent at grade four, 99 percent at grade eight, and 98 percent at grade 10.

"The increased participation rates on these assessments show that school districts are working hard to include all students in statewide evaluation," Burmaster said. She expressed concern over eighth-grade math results, stressing the importance of lifting achievement for all students. "We still have much work to do to close the gap between children of color, economically disadvantaged students, and their peers."

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The gap in the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced closed slightly across most subjects for children of color across all grades. The gap also closed slightly between economically disadvantaged students and their peers, except for grade 10. A higher percentage of students were reported coming from

low-income families based on eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals compared to previous years. For 2003-04, 32 percent of fourth-graders, 27 percent of eighth-graders, and 21 percent of 10th-graders were economically disadvantaged.



“We know

poverty works against the education of our children,” Burmaster said. “While there are no simple answers for lifting student achievement, we know that children’s educational opportunities improve when they have early learning opportunities through 4-year-old kindergarten and small class sizes in early elementary grades. We also know that student learning hinges on the quality of the teacher in the classroom and the strength of the leader in the school. When children have parental and community support and access to career and technical education programs that involve students in becoming active citizens by better understanding their role in the family, society, and the world of work, they become more engaged in their own learning, which increases their academic success.”

Achievement appeared most improved in fourth grade, with the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced increasing slightly across most subjects and racial/ethnic groups. Achievement at eighth grade appeared to increase from the previous year for language arts and social studies, drop

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slightly for reading and science, and drop more so for math. At 10th grade, the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced appeared to increase for science and social studies, drop slightly for reading and language arts, and stay the same for math. When looking at scale scores rather than performance levels, none of the changes were considered statistically significant, leaving scores best described as stable.

Test scores normally fluctuate from year to year and are best examined over time. The WKCE was revised in grades four and eight last year and customized at grade 10. That, in addition to the change to fall test administration, makes score comparisons beyond two years unwise.

“With just two years of data on WKCE, it is hard to spot trends,” Burmaster said, “but these scores provide much hope for the future as we strive to provide a quality education for every child.”

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WKCE/WAA Performance

Percent of Total Students Enrolled
Scoring Proficient and Advanced

4th Grade	02-03*	03-04
Reading	80	82
Language Arts	78	79
Mathematics	71	74
Science	77	80
Social Studies	90	90
8th Grade	02-03*	03-04
Reading	83	79
Language Arts	62	67
Mathematics	73	65
Science	74	69
Social Studies	81	84
10th Grade	02-03*	03-04
Reading	71	69
Language Arts	70	67
Mathematics	69	69
Science	69	70
Social Studies	72	73

* 2002-03 proficiency data does not include Wisconsin Alternative Assessment (WAA) results.

NOTE: Tables with additional information about statewide performance on Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations for the 2003-04 school year follow. Data on school and district-level performance is available from local districts and is available on the Department of Public Instruction website at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/sig/index.html> >.

WKCE/WAA Performance by Racial/Ethnic Group - 2002-03 and 2003-04

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	All Students		American Indian		Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Not Identified	
	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04
4th Grade														
Reading	80	82	69	74	69	75	61	64	62	69	86	87	55	76
Language Arts	78	79	63	70	67	73	54	60	57	65	83	85	54	73
Mathematics	71	74	54	62	66	72	41	46	53	58	76	81	49	71
Science	77	80	66	74	59	71	42	50	53	64	84	88	62	78
Social Studies	90	90	86	84	85	87	72	73	78	79	95	95	73	87
Percent Not Tested**	1-3	0	1-2	0-1	0-4	0-1	1-4	1	1-11	1	0-2	0	14-27	3
Enrollment	62,390	61,581	949	899	2,263	2,130	7,120	7,248	3,643	3,914	48,218	47,235	197	155
8th Grade	All Students		American Indian		Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Not Identified	
	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04
Reading	83	79	73	69	69	62	54	50	60	59	89	85	60	69
Language Arts	62	67	41	52	48	56	29	37	36	45	70	74	32	54
Mathematics	73	65	56	46	68	57	30	25	47	42	81	73	43	54
Science	74	69	57	52	55	48	29	26	45	41	82	78	41	58
Social Studies	81	84	69	71	72	74	44	50	57	66	88	90	53	73
Percent Not Tested**	1-3	1	1-3	1-2	1-4	1	4-10	2-4	4-11	1-2	0-1	0	9-19	3-4
Enrollment	67,527	68,409	1,023	1,024	2,278	2,332	6,684	7,014	3,139	3,429	54,190	54,393	213	217
10th Grade	All Students		American Indian		Asian		Black		Hispanic		White		Not Identified	
	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04	02-03*	03-04
Reading	71	69	58	53	55	53	36	33	45	44	78	76	49	54
Language Arts	70	67	51	46	52	51	34	30	42	42	76	73	44	50
Mathematics	69	69	48	50	55	59	23	24	40	41	76	76	39	53
Science	69	70	50	51	50	54	21	26	39	42	77	77	43	58
Social Studies	72	73	53	59	58	63	31	32	45	48	78	80	45	59
Percent Not Tested**	4	2	8-9	4	4-5	2	15-17	8-10	10-12	4-5	2	1	11-14	6-8
Enrollment	71,678	70,543	1,000	998	2,164	2,285	5,912	5,851	2,848	3,115	59,422	58,010	332	284

* 2002-03 proficiency data does to not include Wisconsin Alternative Assessment (WAA) results.

** The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE).

**2003-04 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and
Wisconsin Alternate Assessments**

	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
4th Grade							
Limited English Proficient	3,317	1	62	55	56	56	74
English Proficient	58,264	0	84	81	75	82	91
Students with Disabilities	8,382	1	55	49	50	61	78
Nondisabled	53,199	0	87	84	78	85	93
Economically Disadvantaged	19,957	0-1	71	67	58	65	82
Not Economically Disadvantaged	41,624	0	89	85	81	88	95
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,559	1	75	71	64	72	83
In District Full Academic Year	56,022	0	83	80	75	82	91
	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
8th Grade							
Limited English Proficient	2,288	2-3	40	29	34	25	53
English Proficient	66,121	1	81	69	66	71	85
Students with Disabilities	9,780	1-2	42	25	25	33	53
Nondisabled	58,629	0-1	86	75	73	76	89
Economically Disadvantaged	18,761	1-2	61	46	42	44	66
Not Economically Disadvantaged	49,648	0	87	76	75	79	91
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,797	2-3	69	54	50	55	72
In District Full Academic Year	63,612	1	80	69	66	71	85
	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
10th Grade							
Limited English Proficient	1,672	3-5	25	25	31	27	31
English Proficient	68,871	2	71	68	70	71	75
Students with Disabilities	9,243	4-5	29	22	27	33	34
Nondisabled	61,300	1-2	76	74	76	76	79
Economically Disadvantaged	14,552	4-5	46	43	44	45	50
Not Economically Disadvantaged	55,991	1	76	73	76	76	80
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,038	6-7	52	46	49	51	54
In District Full Academic Year	66,505	2	71	68	71	71	75

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the WKCE.

2003-04 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and Wisconsin Alternate Assessments

Percent of Total Enrolled Students (As a result of rounding percents may not total 100%.)

				WKCE Proficiency Categories			
				Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
4th Grade	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**				
Reading	0	2	1	4	12	38	43
Language Arts	0	2	1	4	14	42	36
Mathematics	0	1	1	14	10	44	29
Science	0	1	1	3	14	59	21
Social Studies	0	1	1	2	6	27	63
				WKCE Proficiency Categories			
8th Grade	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	1	1	1	8	11	47	32
Language Arts	1	1	1	11	19	40	27
Mathematics	1	1	1	17	16	44	21
Science	1	1	1	12	16	46	23
Social Studies	1	1	1	5	10	35	49
				WKCE Proficiency Categories			
10th Grade	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	2	1	0	13	15	19	50
Language Arts	2	1	0	11	20	50	17
Mathematics	2	1	1	15	13	44	25
Science	2	1	1	16	11	36	34
Social Studies	2	1	1	17	7	32	41

* Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Students with Disabilities is a custom test administered for the first time in 2002-03.

** Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Limited English Proficient students is a custom test for students who are English-Language Learners at Level 1 or 2 and was administered for the first time in 2002-03.

WKCE Proficiency Categories

Advanced Students demonstrate in-depth understanding of the academic knowledge and skills tested.

Proficient Students demonstrate competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested.

Basic Students demonstrate some academic knowledge and skills tested.

Minimal Demonstrates very limited academic knowledge and skills tested.